

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CPR-01 CU-04 SCA-01 /020 W  
-----192156Z 085032 /14

R 191146Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7702

UNCLAS CARACAS 4989

FOR OFFICE OF PROTOCOL, ARA, VISA OFFICE AND CU

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, SCUL  
SUBJ: GRAN MARISCAL DE AYACUCHO PROGRAM: NON-IMMIGRANT VISA  
CLASSIFICATION: SECTION 101(A) (15)(A)(II) OF ACT

REF: STATE 109298 AND STATE A-5811 OF DECEMBER 3, 1976

1. THE VENEZUELAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM "GRANT MARISCAL DE AYACUCHO" IS AN OFFICIAL VENEZUELAN PROGRAM FINANCED FROM APPROPRIATED FUNDS. IT IS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE MINISTER OF COORDINATION AND PLANNING AND SOON TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE MINISTER OF YOUTH. ITS PROGRAM IN THE UNITED STATES IS SIGNIFICANT INVOLVING NEARLY 4,000 FULL-TIME UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN ALL SECTIONS OF THE U.S. WITH THE TERMINATION OF ITS CONTRACT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION, THE GOV IS ESTABLISHING RESIDENT VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS IN THE U.S. TO ADMINISTER THE U.S. SECTION OF THE PROGRAM DIRECTLY AND TO SUPERVISE AND ASSIST ITS STUDENTS.

2. OUR READING OF REPAIR LEADS US TO THE CONCLUSION THAT SUCH VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS WILL NOT BE ENGAGED IN ANY ACTIVITY WHICH COULD BE CHARACTERIZED AS "COMMERCIAL AND/OR COMPETITIVE." IT IS ESSENTIALLY A CULTURAL PROGRAM AND ONE OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY IN THE CULTURAL FIELD IS A TIME-HONORED CONCEPT. THERE ARE ALSO ELEMENTS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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MORE TRADITIONAL CONSULAR ACTIVITY CONCERNING THE PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF VENEZUELAN STUDENTS IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY. IN OUR VIEW, SUCH VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS WILL BE ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE INHERENTLY GOVERNMENTAL IN CHARACTER AND NATURE. CLEARLY, SUCH OFFICIALS WOULD QUALIFY FOR A-2 CLASSIFICATION.

3. THERE IS A BROADER QUESTION INVOLVED, HOWEVER, WHICH CANNOT

BE ADDRESSED SOLELY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF VISA CLASSIFICATIONS. AYACHUCHO PROGRAM OFFICIALS IN VENEZUELA ARE REQUESTING THAT THEIR NEW YORK OFFICE BE INDEPENDENT OF THE VENEZUELAN CONSULATE IN NEW YORK. IN EFFECT, THEY ARE REQUESTING THAT THEY PERCEIVE TO BE THE STATUS ACCORDED TO THE VENEZUELAN TOURISM OFFICE IN NEW YORK OR THAT OF THE VENEZUELAN COMPTROLLER GENERAL'S OFFICE IN THAT CITY. THEY ANTICIPATE AN OFFICE STAFF IN NEW YORK OF ABOUT 43 OF WHICH APPROX 30 WILL BE VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS. ANOTHER 10-15 VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS WILL BE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE U.S. AND ASSIGNED TO VENEZUELAN CONSULATES.

4. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY DESIRES THE CONCURRENCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE CONCERNING THE STATUS OF THE GRAN MARISCAL DE AYACUCHO OFFICE IN NEW YORK SPECIFICALLY AS WELL AS OF THE SUBORDINATE AYACUCHO REPRESENTATIVES IN OTHER AREAS OF THE U.S. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS PREPARED TO REQUEST CONSULAR ACCREDITATION FOR AYACUCHO OFFICIALS AND TO PLACE SUCH OFFICIALS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE VENEZUELAN CONSULARE IF THIS IS CONSIDERED MORE APPROPRIATE. THEY ARE ALSO PREPARED TO COUNTENANCE AN INDEPENDENT OFFICE IN NEW YORK AS AN OFFICIAL VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT AGENCY IF THIS IS POSSIBLE. IN OUR VIEW, EITHER SOLUTION WOULD WARRANT AN A-2 CLASSIFICATION FOR THE VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS INVOLVED.

5. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE A RESPONSE ON THIS SUBJECT BY LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE. THE GRAN MARISCAL DE AYACUCHO PROGRAM WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE DISCUSSED DURING MRS. CARTER'S VISIT TO CARACAS WE HOPE TO DIRECT ANY SUCH CONVERSATION TO THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES RELATED TO THE PROGRAM AND WOULD PREFER TO CLEAR UP THE UNCLASSIFIED

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ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS PRIOR TO THE VISIT. PLEASE ADVISE.  
VAKY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009